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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Atlantic Coast Pipeline Decision Objection

Hello. I am an intervenor on the ACP and I did comment during the first and second round of EIS comment periods.

I object to the Forest Service Draft ROD to allow the ACP to go through our public lands for the following reasons:

1. This pipeline is huge. A pipeline of this magnitude has never been tried on this terrain. We know that the ecosystem of the Mon Forest is the second most biodiverse in the world. We cannot risk harming the many sensitive, rare, and endangered species that we have left.
2. Our water is at risk. Counties east of the origin, namely Randolph, Pocahontas, and several in Virginia, contain delicate Karst, and underground system of caves and fissures that filters and carries water underground, sometimes for several miles. Add to this that the U.N. predicts a severe water shortage by 2030, coupled with the disastrous effects of climate change, and our water becomes even more valuable.
3. Our public lands were set aside for a specific reason: to preserve the beauty and ecosystem services of wild land, which are considerable. I don't have to tell anyone at the FS the value of the ecosystem services provided by our undeveloped, old growth forests and public lands. These are national treasures that we should be able to show to our children, in realtime, not just in pictures.
4. Renewable energy is upon us and climate change is wreaking havoc. We cannot afford to put 9 new giant pipelines in the ground in Appalachia. This will lock us into fossil fuel use for several decades and further slow the development of renewable energy technology.
5. This is a social justice issue; fossil fuel energy uses great amounts of water, toxifies areas where it is developed, and disproportionately affects poorer, uneducated, rural, elderly, and ill populations of people.
6. This is not only a practical but a moral problem. There is no moral or practical mandate for the Forest Service to approve these ridiculous and unwise, for-profit projects, especially in light of the long-term damage they will undoubtedly cause. Many scientific and economic reports have been generated that show these projects will harm our economies, water, climate and public health for generations to come.
7. It has been the Forest Service's policy to preserve public lands. A decision to allow construction of another large pipeline through the forest would go contrary to that directive.
8. The companies that want these variances (MVP and ACP) keep submitting new documents after the close of the comment period, making it much harder to determine the true impact of these projects, and keeping the public in the dark about their true nature and long-term effects. Indeed, they have not answered most of the objections raised during the comment period, but they expect to get carte blanche to use our resources for their profit. The entire FERC process is corrupt, especially in light of the new administrations actions to dismantle such protections.

9. If the Forest Service cooperates with these companies, it would amount to colluding with an enemy of the state, the fossil fuel companies, over long-standing policies to protect our land, water, and the public's right to enjoy the natural features of our beautiful country. For example, Exxon's own scientists knew about climate change in 1977 and covered it up. We are now enjoying the fruits of that hoodwink. Please do not be complicit in another such immoral act.

West Virginia has already been mistreated, marginalized, used, and ignored for over a century and a half. Isn't it time to stop the harm?

Thank you for taking my comments.

Sincerely,

April Keating

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